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COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED VALIDATION OF *MACACA FUSCATA* (BLYTH, 1875) AS THE NAME FOR THE JAPANESE MACAQUE. Z.N.(S.) 1802

(see volume 24, pages 250–251)

By John R. Napier, P. H. Napier and Colin P. Groves (*Smithsonian Institution, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.*)

We have pleasure in supporting Dr. Jack Fooden's application for the conservation of the name *Macaca fuscata* (Blyth, 1875) for the Japanese macaque.

This necessitates the suppression of the name *Macaca speciosa* I. Geoffroy, 1826, and many people working with the brown stump-tailed macaque may feel a reasonable annoyance at the change of its scientific name from *Macaca speciosa* to *Macaca arctoides*, the next available name. However, changes such as this come about through the thorough and conscientious work of modern revisers who, in tracing and eliminating past errors, are providing a sound basis for the future.

As other primate genera are revised, other name changes may become necessary; in dealing with this Order, the first consideration is that these changes should be minimized so that communication between workers using the animals concerned is not needlessly hampered. In deciding how best to deal with the misidentification of the type specimen of *Macaca speciosa* I. Geoffroy, 1826, by Blyth (1875) and many later authors, Dr. Fooden has had this end in view.

We therefore have pleasure in supporting his application.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO SUPPRESS *PYTHON TIMORENSIS* MÜLLER, 1844. (REPTILIA). Z.N.(S.) 1834

(see volume 25, pages 55–59)

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The case as presented is convincing. I endorse all requests pertaining to it, without reservation. It should be pointed out, however, that Article 58 specifies in para. (11) that geographical names differing only in suffix spelling *-ensis vs. -iensis* " (e.g. *timorensis, timoriensis*) " are to be regarded as homonyms, thus rendering unnecessary a separate and explicit action on the erroneous subsequent spelling of *Python timorensis* Müller, 1844 (e.g. *P. timoriensis* Müller, 1857) or of *Liasis timoriensis* Peters, 1876 (e.g. *P. timorensis* (Boulenger, 1893)).